

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



The Late Lord Salisbury

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman

John Burns

Ex-Prime Minister A. J. Balfour

COLUMBUS WAS NOT SUCH A HERO

Critical Studies of His Life by Prominent American at Paris Embassy.

HIGHEST LITERARY HONOR.

Movement for Canonization of Navigator, Originating in America, Finds No Support at Rome.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—Henry Vignaud, the venerable first secretary of the United States embassy in Paris, is now putting the finishing touches to the second series of his monumental work, "Critical Studies of the Life of Columbus." His first series has just been "crowned" by the academy. This is the highest form of appreciation that France can bestow, and no other recognition elsewhere is held in such high esteem as the men who confer it are all savants of the specialist order. It is a distinction rarely given to foreigners and Mr. Vignaud is the first American to receive it.

During the 32 years that he has resided in Paris Mr. Vignaud has devoted all his leisure time to historical studies and for the most part with reference to Columbus. In hunting up information about him from all sorts of dusty records he has displayed infinite pains and patience. He verifies everything. His first series, as is generally known, showed that the real Columbus bore little resemblance to the heroic figure of legend and tradition, who has been enshrined for centuries in the popular imagination. In fact he has proved to be a good deal of a bungler and charlatan. The second series, judging from the conversation I have just had with Mr. Vignaud, will be still more destructive of the halo with which historians, who have devoted little original research to the subject, have surrounded him.

CONFIRMED PREVARICATOR.

"In my first series of critical studies," said Mr. Vignaud, "I left Columbus when he settled in Portugal and married. In the new series I take him from the commencement of his life in Portugal until his departure for the discovery of America. In other words, my second series is a continuation of the first. My critical studies, however, conclude with Columbus's starting on his voyage because after that his life is fully recorded and there are no disputed points about him to be cleared up. Columbus was a man of mystery and a most consummate liar. He lied continually about himself. He lied whenever he thought it served his personal interests. I prove him to be a confirmed liar.

In my coming work I take up the supposed discussion of his plan of voyage, with the learned men of the University of Salamanca and of Spain generally. Columbus was more of a salivator than a savant, but he wished to give the impression that he was constantly in communication with the learned men of the day. He was not. There is also a curious point about Bartolomeo Henriquez, mother of his second son. It is a debated question whether he was married or not. I prove beyond dispute that he was not

What English Statesmen Pay for Premiership.

Shattered Health the Price of High Position—Recent Breakdown of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman Calls Attention Afresh to Calls Made on Vitality by His Exalted Office—Job of U. S. President One of Luxurious Ease.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Broken health is the price almost invariably paid for the highest office under the crown in England—that of prime minister. Truly it may be described as a killing job. Attention has been called once again to the tremendous strain it places on the vitality of its incumbent by the recent breakdown of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, which was due solely to overwork.

There probably is no position, public or private in the world, which makes so many demands on the time and energy of its holder. Americans are accustomed to the statement that the president of the United States is the hardest worked man in the country, and no doubt he is, but the president of the United States leads a life of luxurious ease compared with that of the prime minister of the British empire. Try to imagine the duties of the president, the leader of the house of representatives and the chairman of the national committee rolled into one, and add to that personal responsibility for all the machinery of government, including every department looked after in America by a member of the cabinet, who also is independent. Add to these duties the ever present necessity of watching the political temper of parliament, on which the premier's tenure of office depends, and the drudgery of addressing numberless great meetings and traveling from one end of the kingdom to another when parliament is not sitting, and you may have some idea of the burden of toil that falls on the shoulders of the British prime minister. The president of the United States is an executive only. Except so far as his personal influence goes, he has nothing to do with the legislative branch of the government. His secretaries in charge of the various departments are semi-independent, and except in matters of broad general policy he has little concern with the direct management of the various departments of government.

MUCH HARRASSED MAN.

The prime minister of England is an executive, a legislative and a political officer. He must have a seat in one or other house of parliament and he must be in his place night after night to lead his party and answer the questions of his opponents, who do not err on the side of consideration for the much-harrassed man whom they are trying their hardest to oust from his high position. It must be remembered too that the house of commons, in which the present prime minister sits, does not, like the house of lords, meet in the morning. It meets in the afternoon, seldom adjourns before midnight and often sits all night. All this time the premier has to be in his place, although he may have been hard at work on the administrative features of his routine since early morning. He may have to make a dozen speeches in a night, many of them impromptu, and he must always be alert and have all his wits about him, for an apparently slight slip may mean the downfall of his government and the defeat of the measures and policies for which he stands.

This is the legislative side of his work. On the administrative side he must preside, sometimes daily for a week or more, and usually at least once a week, at cabinet councils at which the party program of legislation, the party policy on all great questions, and many small ones, appointments to office and a host of other details are discussed. He must always be alert and have all his wits about him, for an apparently slight slip may mean the downfall of his government and the defeat of the measures and policies for which he stands.

GRAFT RAMPANT IN STAGD ENGLAND

Local Governments of Johnny Bull Said to Be Honey-combed With It.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Disclose a State of Affairs Calculated To Make Tammany Turn Green With Envy.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Englishmen who enjoyed talking about the corruption and dishonesty in American municipal life are singing very small just now. Even the most patriotic Briton is apt to feel that for him to abuse America on this score is dangerously like the pot calling the kettle black.

It has always been the boast of Englishmen that all departments of their government were free from corruption and to a great extent this has been the case. Lately, however, there has been a rude awakening. Investigation after investigation into the workings of various boards of guardians and other local government authorities have disclosed a state of affairs which would put to shame the greatest grafters that Tammany hall or the Philadelphia ring ever produced. It is true that the amounts of money involved in the English disclosures were smaller than those that we are accustomed to hear about from America, but the only reason that this was so was that the amounts that could be stolen were smaller. Working on the percentage basis the British grafter has far eclipsed his American cousin.

GRAFT IN LONDON.

London has been going through a series of investigations of boards of guardians for the last year or more, so far half a dozen of the forty or more boards in the London district have been investigated by local government board officials, and a startling state of corruption has been disclosed in each. At least half a dozen more boards have been designated for investigation, and it is said that practically every board of guardians in the United Kingdom is in need of investigation, and will come in for it before long. Already one contractor and five guardians have been sent to jail and there will be many other prosecutions.

JOHN BURNS RESPONSIBLE.

The one man to whom the credit for all this house-cleaning is due is John Burns, the ex-labor leader and Socialist who is now a member of the cabinet as president of the local government board. This board has jurisdiction over the work of all the local elected bodies and is expected to watch them and exercise a check on their expenditures. Until the advent of John Burns, however, it was chiefly conspicuous for its inactivity. Mr. Burns has had a long experience in local government and the first thing he did was to attack the system that has grown up. He declares that he does not intend to stop until he has eliminated the last vestige of graft from English public life.

The board of guardians is an institution peculiarly English. It is a purely local elected body and has jurisdiction solely over the administration of the poor law. It is independent of every other local authority and until recently was in practice entirely independent even of the local government board. It has the spending of a great deal of

ANTI-SEMITIC AGITATOR A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN, Jan. 8.—At last it seems probable that a termination has been put to the pernicious activity of Count Walter Puckler, the notorious anti-Semitic agitator. He will no longer be allowed to indulge publicly in his favorite pastime—Jew baiting. He has been adjudged a dangerous lunatic and the other afternoon was arrested at a fashionable hotel here and conveyed under police escort to Daildorf asylum.

But it is not his fulminations against the Jews which have led to his suppression. It is for something which under German law is regarded as a far more heinous offense. He has been guilty of lese majeste. He has abused the sacred person of the Kaiser. And no man—state or man—can be allowed to do that with impunity.

Count Puckler has for many years been the most implacable foe of the Semitic race in Germany. He has delivered hundreds of speeches against them and written scores of pamphlets denouncing them. He organized a band of armed retainers on his own estate to harry and persecute them. He regarded them as a people entirely beyond the pale of human mercy. He has frequently declared that any one who murdered a Jew conferred a public benefit and performed an act which would be applauded in heaven. His chief ambition was to introduce into Germany that species of massacre known in Russia as "pogroms." Because of his rank, his wealth and oratorical gifts of no mean order, he did succeed in stirring up much ill-feeling against the Jews among certain classes, and inciting many acts of violence against them.

He has been frequently prosecuted, several times fined, and has been imprisoned more than once for his incendiary harangues. More recently he was accused of the murder of a Jew, the authorities took no further steps against him, treating him as a harmless lunatic. But when he began to attack the Kaiser, in their estimation he became a dangerous lunatic. It was because of the Kaiser's partiality for Herr Balfour, and other Hebrew capitalists of industry in the fatherland, that he incurred Count Puckler's hostility. The count wrote two or three abusive pamphlets assailing him. In the days in which he is confined, he will be allowed to write anything he pleases, but it won't be printed.

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